

Kumamoto, } Telorihommachi 34,
Kyūshū }

Sept 12th / 92.

Dear Mr. Scudder:—

I have received your kind letter, which suggests to me that you have recovered from your illness — though you said nothing on the subject. I hope you are quite strong, and wish you could visit Japan for a season, and enjoy the mountain resorts during the autumn or spring. Sir Edwin Arnold came back to recruit after his American journey, and declared that his health was entirely restored by his sojourn here.

— I returned to Kumamoto only on the 10th September, after having travelled several thousand miles by steamer and Kuruma. I have made the first exploration of the Oki islands. Foreign men of war have touched at Saigo, the largest, but except a few naval officers, no other foreigners ever set foot on Oki soil, — and that was only en passant. In the other islands no foreigners was ever seen before. I spent about three weeks in the different islands, and on my return journey crossed Japan for the third time by Kuruma, — taking a new route, I also visited Kyōto, Nara, &c., but it would

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require at least a year of study to write
of the wonderful city - Kyoto. I don't know
yet what I will be able to do with the
material of my trip; - but I will do
something, of course. The Oki Islands
belong to Shimane Ken, and I guess -
properly the sketch ought to go into the
book, perhaps. Perhaps again, a

separate narration of the ^{most} curious things
seen along the whole of my long
journey, might be better. Of that anon,

— Messrs. Houghton & Mifflin
have sent me the printed matter of
the syndicated papers, and I shall
begin work on them as soon as they
arrive, & will forward each one
in regular order as soon as possible
by registered letter.

— My great ambition is to
write an emotional, living book -
a sort of little "heart-book" about
Buddhism - vital Buddhism, not
anything esoteric or transcendental.
But I cannot yet decide for myself
whether I will be able to gratify that
ambition. And I have lots of other
work on hand for this year, - to be
submitted to you some day.

with best regards ever
sincerely yours
Lafcadio Hearn